Breast Cancer in Uganda

Increasing the Survival Rate

Background Information

Breast cancer is characterized by a malignant tumor located often in the ducts or lobules of the breast. Throughout the world, breast cancer affects approximately 1.3 million women each year and kills 465,000. However, in many African countries it is not considered a high priority because it is overshadowed by other problems that are considered larger scale. Uganda is one of these countries in which the resources for breast cancer treatment are severely lacking.

Problem Statement

Due to the lack of resources, breast cancer is diagnosed at a more advanced stage in the women of Uganda, which leads to a higher mortality rate than that for women in developed nations, such as the United States.

Conclusion

Although breast cancer is a serious illness in Uganda, through the implementation of our action plan, the women of Uganda will have a higher chance of being diagnosed with breast cancer at an earlier stage. The mammography van will provide access to screenings to those located in remote locations. The brochures will educate and allow women to take charge of their health. Fund raising will increase awareness for this problem, along with raising money for mammography vans and the education. Hence, they can be treated sooner, which would increase the survival rate.

Action Plan

1. Increase the availability of mammograms in Uganda
   Establish a mammography van to increase the accessibility of breast cancer screenings. The van will allow more women to be screened, therefore increasing early diagnosis.

2. Spread Awareness about breast cancer and educate about self-diagnosis. Awareness about breast cancer will be increased through distributing pamphlets in public places, such as medical facilities, schools, and churches.

3. Set up fundraisers to profit and strengthen the program. Events such as walks, public speakers, and merchandising will help the program become more known.

References

[Provide references here.]

Uganda

Population: 31 million
Average income: $217.40/person
Number of Oncologists: 1
Only 1 radiology center
- 2 mammography units
45% five year survival rate
95% at advanced stage when diagnosed